

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 NIC-01 SP-02 AID-05 EB-04 NSC-05

RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

COME-00 L-02 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

OES-03 ACDA-05 MC-01 AGR-05 SWF-01 FEAE-00 INT-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GE, NI

SUBJ: GDR CONCLUDES TRADE AGREEMENT WITH NIGERIA

1. OFFICIAL EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPER NEUES DEUTSCHLAND(ND) HAS REPORTED SIGNING OCTOBER 16 IN LAGOS OF LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NIGERIA AND GDR, WHICH PAPER NOTES IS FIRST SUCH FORMAL GOVERNMENTAL UNDERSTANDING CONCLUDED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES. KEY PROVISION OF AGREEMENT IS FORMATION OF JOINT COMMISSION FOR PROMOTING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND EXPANDING TRADE RELATIONS. ND QUOTES GDR MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (HORST SOELLE) AS UNDERSCORING TO PRESS INTENTION OF EAST GERMANY TO SUPPLY NIGERIA WITH INCREASING QUANTITIES OF MACHINERY,
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INDISTRIAL EQUIPMENT, AND ELECTRONIC AND SCIENTIFIC ITEMS:

IN TURN, SOELLE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GDR WAS PREPARED TO IMPORT COCOA, COFFEE, TIMBER, PEANUTS, COTTON AND OIL FROM NIGERIA.

2. COMMENT: VOLUME OF TRADE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES NEGLIGIBLE TO DATE AS WITNESSED BY FACT NIGERIA DOES NOT EVEN RATE SEPARATE LINE ITEM IN LATEST COMPILATION OF GDR FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS. ASIDE FROM POLITICAL ATMOSPHERICS, NEW AGREEMENT PROBABLY SIGNIFICANT FRO GDR LARGELY BECAUSE OF OPPORTUNITY IT MAY OFFER GDR FOR ACCESS TO MAJOR PRODUCER OF CRUDE OIL. GDR, WHICH TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS, PRINCIPALLY FROM USSR, TO MEET ITS PETROLEUM REQUIREMENTS (16 MILLION TONS IN 1973), IS ENDEAVORING TO SECURE FOR ITSELF SUPPLEMENTARY SOURCES OF CRUDE. NET EFFECT OF THIS TRADE POLICY, OF COURSE, WHICH SOVIETS ENCOURAGE, MIGHT BE TO LESSEN GDR'S FUTURE RELIANCE ON RUSSIAN SUPPLIES.

3. DECONTROL 12/31/74.KLEIN

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